

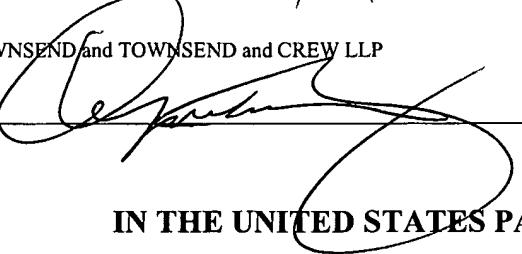


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

On \_\_\_\_\_

4/6/05

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: 

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 16869S-091500US  
Client Ref. No.: W1151-01ES

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Nobuyuki Saika

Application No.: 10/649,171

Filed: August 26, 2003

For: Storage Device Managing System,  
Method and Program

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 4792

Examiner: Unassigned

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2181

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
SUBMITTED WITH PETITION TO  
MAKE SPECIAL

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In connection with the Petition to Make Special submitted herewith, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

an annotated sheet showing changes are submitted herewith.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.